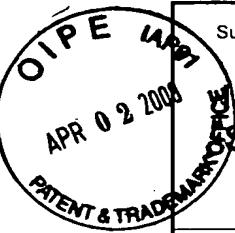


Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.



Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

1

of

1

| Complete if Known | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Application Number | 10/552,959 |
| Filing Date | December 12, 2006 |
| First Named Inventor | Tamotsu SHIKAMORI, et al. |
| Art Unit | 1746 |
| Examiner Name | TBA |
| Attorney Docket Number | 9988.234.00 |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
| | AA | | | | |
| | | | | | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| | | Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| BA | GB 887811 A | | 01-24-1962 | Lepper | | |
| BB | EP 222 264 A2 | | 05-20-1987 | Zanussi Elettrodomestici S.p.A. | | |
| BC | EP 481 442 A2 | | 04-22-1992 | Sharp Kabushiki Kaisha | | |
| BD | GB 958 843 A | | 05-27-1964 | Albano, Vits | | |
| BE | JP 10-295977 | | 11-10-1998 | Sharp Corp. | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the application number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---|----------------|
| Examiner Initials | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | T ² |
| | CA | | |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Examiner Signature | Date Considered |
|--------------------|-----------------|